

REMARKS / ARGUMENT

In response to the office action of October 3, 2003, Applicant has: canceled claims 1-3, 5, 7-9, 10-12, and 21 which are replaced herein with new claims 24-30 to further clarify the invention; amended claim 13 to include the previous-presented claim 17 canceled herein; retained 14, 16, and 18-20 now depending from allowable claim 13; retained previously-allowed claims 22-24; and introduced new claims 31-46. Applicant has also endeavored to cure the claim rejections under 35 USC § 112 where cited by Examiner.

Applicant submits that the present invention is patently distinguishable from the prior art and respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. Should there be any fees for this action, your office is authorized to draw from the firm deposit account number 02-3979. Should you have any questions, or identify any problem, I would appreciate a telephone call so that this matter may be resolved promptly.

Respectfully submitted,

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